

**Testimony on the Care4Kids Budget**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**February 21, 2017**

My name is Eleuteria Campoverde, and I am a licensed family child care provider in West Haven. My child care businesses is suffering because of the eligibility cuts to Care4Kids. If Care4Kids remains closed for the next two years, I will have to close my business.

Right now, I have 3 fulltime children, 2 before and after school children, and 3 children that I watch on the weekend. All of the children have Care4Kids. There are two additional children that want to enroll in my program, but their parents are on the waiting list for Care4Kids, and they cannot afford to pay for child care without it.

With so few full time children enrolled in my program, I have had to stay open at night and on weekends. I work seven days a week. I have two of my own children, one in college and another in private school. If I cannot make ends meet, their future is in jeopardy. I am afraid that I will lose my business and my house. Caring for children is my passion, but I am afraid that I will need to look for a factory job because I do not have enough kids in my program.

There is a mother whose daughter used to receive Care4Kids and attend my program. Then, the mother got pregnant and took some time off from work to care for the new baby. During this time, she lost Care4Kids. Now, she wants to go back to work but cannot because she can't get Care4Kids for either of her children. They cannot afford my program without Care4Kids, and I cannot afford to lower my prices while still providing quality care.

Children like these are likely to end up in unlicensed care, where they will have a babysitter, not someone who will prepare them for school with quality early learning opportunities. It is so important for young children to be in quality care. I am sad for all the children who do not get the best start in life because they cannot get Care4Kids.

I know other providers and parents who have similar stories. If Care4Kids remains closed, many providers will lose their child care businesses and parents will not be able to work. Children will spend their days in front of a television instead of getting the quality early learning that programs like mine provide. Providers, parents, and children need Care4Kids. Please do not make cuts to the program. Invest more money in Care4Kids so that families can access this important resource. Thank you.